

# Evening Public Ledger

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Philadelphia, Saturday, February 23, 1920

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA

Things on which the people expect the new administration to concentrate its attention:

The Delaware river bridge.  
A drydock big enough to accommodate the largest ship.  
Development of the rapid transit system.  
A convention hall.  
A building for the Free Library.  
An Art Museum.  
Improvement of the water supply.  
Houses to accommodate the population.

GETTING UNDER WAY

THE current week has given evidence that there is an earnest purpose in the City Hall to carry out the program of improvements about which the people have been thinking for a long time.

This newspaper has been directing attention to eight of the most important. Since Monday there have been conferences to consider the work on the bridge across the Delaware, to study the rapid transit situation, to ascertain the exact status of the free library building project and to bring about a co-operative company to buy the Hog Island terminal and build a drydock there 1000 feet long.

All these things can be put across if the good work is kept up.

HOW IT STRUCK ONE MAN

WHEN a Chestnut street car stopped at Broad street yesterday morning a man looked out at the tired firemen digging the ice-covered hose from the gutter where the water poured on the fire in Kugler's restaurant had frozen.

There were icicles on the clothes of the firemen. The man in the car was comfortable in a heavy overcoat and gloves. He evidently thought of the contrast, for he remarked to the person next to him: "And this car refuses to give those men decent pay!"

ROBINSON ADMITS IT

SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON, on the eve of his retirement from the Police Department, says that the efficiency of the police has been hindered by politics. "There has been too much looking to people other than their superiors for orders," is the way he puts it.

Everybody has known this for a long time. It was one of the reasons for the political overturn last fall. But no police department official has hitherto been so bold as to admit the truth for publication.

The police bureau has been run as an annex of a political machine and the political bosses were the real commanding officers. Of course, the force was demoralized under such conditions.

If the men on the force can be convinced that the real boss of the department sits at Director Corderly's desk, and if those who ignore orders from headquarters and obey commands from outside forces are properly disciplined, we shall have got something for the trouble we took to vote Mayor Moore into office.

WHAT RANSLEY DEPENDS ON

OF COURSE, Harry Ransley, who wishes to be the Vice candidate for Congress in the Third district, is for light wines and beers. He has to be in order to be regular, for Congressman Vane set the pace when he said that the Volstead law ought to be amended so as to permit the sale of beverages with a small alcoholic content.

This is the only controversial matter in Mr. Ransley's platform of three planks. He favors tax reduction and so does every one else. And he thinks there should be a budget system to regulate national expenditures. The leaders in Congress are committed to the budget system.

But, after all, Mr. Ransley is not expecting to get the nomination by virtue of his platform. It is put forth out of respect to political customs. He is depending upon what is left of Vane control in the district to pull him through.

A CHEERFUL ORPHAN

ONE man at least isn't worried about the progress of Hoover's candidacy. That man is Hoover. He listened serenely while Mr. Penrose and Mr. Bryan read him out of their respective parties. "I agree with them," said he. "Now let us get down to real issues."

Hoover may not be a politician. But he knows an appalling lot about politics. He seems to know, for example, that the average life of an average presidential boom is from ninety to 120 days. The early boom doesn't catch the worm. It catches a cold and a deadly fever and dies.

Hoover is apparently intent on keeping his boom safely at home so that it will not have to mingle with a gang of other booms. He is sitting on it until the time when a multitude of booms now in the air can come down and give it room to air around in.

Penrose and Bryan were alike shooting

at shadows. The real test of their marksmanship will come later when Hoover really goes over the top.

## HOW PHILADELPHIA CAN SPUR AND UNIFY HER TRADE POWER

The Plan of a Splendid Sales Exhibit Building is Big With Possibilities in This Rich Industrial Community

IN a recent analysis of the attributes of good generalship Marshal Foch laid particular stress on the necessity of providing for defeat. In theory this principle is sound and applicable not only to military strategy, but also to commerce, manufacturing, art, stock speculation and even courtship.

But is no one to seek the moon because the sixpence lies hard by? Are initiative and courage to be renounced because failure is a factor in the philosophy of possibilities?

We hardly think the great French marshal, a follower of Napoleonic methods, meant to imply this in his indictment of German overconfidence. There is a vast gulf between delusive quixotism and clear stimulating constructive vision.

Here in Philadelphia there is an indisputable tendency to overlook that fertile mid-region of true progress. Calculations on the contingency of failure abound. Forward-looking pioneers predicting their plans on success are altogether too frequently dismissed as dream spinning sensationalists. No Foch is needed to endow us with self-critical caution. We register that trait, chronically, automatically.

It was typical of our attitude, therefore, that the suggestion of the need in this city for a magnificent sales exhibit building, patterned somewhat after the Bush enterprise in New York, should be received with a certain amount of skepticism.

R. W. Wood, addressing the Chamber of Commerce, unfolded the plan and emphasized especially the magnitude of its scale. Hints that perhaps all the conditions necessary to insure the success of so pretentious and costly an undertaking might not prevail were made. They were worth considering, as all sides of a question are, but they weakened not a whit the essential significance of the case presented.

A buyers' exchange conducted on the proper lines promises a complete and wholesome transformation of some of our business methods. Its possibilities are thoroughly enlightening. It is no more logical to condemn the idea on the ground that it might lack sufficient co-operative support than it is to dismiss the project because the building might happen to burn down.

Happily the Chamber of Commerce was not dominated by doubts. A resolution was passed authorizing that body to sound out the sentiments of manufacturers on the subject. It is their practical indorsement and their contribution of cash and zeal which will count. The conception has already justified itself elsewhere. It responds to a new want in great industrial and commercial communities. It simplifies a physical problem which has rapidly been growing too complex for treatment in any other fashion.

This fact has been impressively realized in New York, where the Bush Sales Exhibit Building has revolutionized certain business methods which had reached a maximum of inconvenience. The great structure on Forty-second street fills to some extent the functions of a permanent fair. Display is secured by manufacturers for the mutual benefit of themselves and buyers. The large scale centralization of samples is also a concrete and practical concentration of the industrial possibilities of the community.

Efficiency is a much-abused word, but in this instance it goes for its entire value. It is obvious that trade is both expedited and invigorated. The productivity of manufacturing New York is realistically revealed. Buyers are no longer compelled to search laboriously for what they want and to forgo acquaintance with products which they would have desired had they known of their existence and makers.

The saving of time and money is self-evident. The market is no longer diffuse and elusive. It is crystallized and the multifarious lines of trade are drawn together in a new intimacy.

The Bush idea is, after all, merely the development of that long-recognized business movement which has evolved stock exchanges, cotton exchanges, silk exchanges, coffee exchanges, Trade, having co-ordinated its special facilities, now passes to a long-needed systematizing of general productive interests. The need for this tightening of industrial forces is, of course, a direct result of the variety of manufacturing endeavor coincident with the growth of population and the progress and solidarity of world trade.

It was a comparatively simple matter for the merchants of the Rialto in Venice to exchange the products of the East and West. Commerce on an international scale was centralized there in the Middle Ages. It is important to note, however, that there was a definite place for these transactions.

The diversion of trade routes caused by the discovery of America produced simultaneously greater commercial expansion and decentralization, but cities with the best exchange systems, combined with favorable geographical locations, still took the ascendancy. Stock exchanges clarified and fortified finances. Trade in goods, however, was carried on in much more haphazard fashion, involving waste and giving unwarranted sway to chance.

Somehow the plan of facilitating commerce by exhibiting in a definite spot specimens of a region's productivity was regarded as primitive. Primal, and therefore essential, is the correct epithet. And so it happened that the Niimi-Novgorod fair, ingenious in its way and illustrative of the elementary industrial development of Russia, eventually begot a scientific imitation in Leipzig. Lyons followed suit.

The Bush enterprise in New York is simply the modern phase of such fairs, comprehensively and comfortably

adapted to present-day conditions. London is soon to have a great new mart of this character.

Philadelphia can possess one, too, if business energy, enthusiasm and vision here are commensurate with the scale on which this "permanent exposition" must be maintained in order to serve its purpose.

Mr. Wood, who is an engineer, spoke of the favor of the Girard estate to this project and the possibility of erecting the building on half of the Chestnut street block between Eleventh and Twelfth streets, provided sufficient rentals were guaranteed. He also spoke in terms of millions. This is the correct language to use with regard to a plan affecting the progress of a city containing 16,500 industrial establishments.

The site, provided it is reasonably central, is immaterial. With due financial backing a suitable one can always be found. The crux of the matter is the industrial vitality of Philadelphia.

As regards productivity, this is huge. Something more, however, is an indispensable factor to the current proposition. What is primarily needed is appreciation of the majestic force of modern business co-operation and a suppression of the instinct to envisage failure in new ventures of large scope.

THE HIGH-COST BANDWAGON

THERE was a time during the war when potatoes were among the unobtainable things of this life. Farmers and truck gardeners held tons of them back from the markets and waited for soaring prices to hit a new high level. You were told, as you may remember, that you were lucky to get rice and spaghetti with the roast.

The potato hoarders lost money in the end. But since they made enough to buy motorcars it is a certainty that they will be among the first to cry out bitterly at the report that oil producers are holding immeasurable quantities of their product in tanks and pipe lines to force gasoline up a cent or two a gallon in the spring. Doubtless there were oil men who went without potatoes at dinner. Oil men and farmers are accustomed to have their say like the rest of us about the high costs of shoes, clothes and the like.

There is a serious question before the house and it is this: Who will step in to stop a game in which everybody plays?

High general cost of all necessities is due in part to money inflation, in part to greed and in part to the desire of many men to pass the burden of their income taxes on to somebody else. But there really is a remedy for the affliction. Common sense, and even a temporary cultivation of the virtue of self-restraint, will make money go a great deal further than it goes now in the average family.

Everybody knows that the margin of extravagance in the United States is great even in normal times. It has been said that an American family throws away food that would suffice a household in France. The French wife of a returned American doughboy became hysterical with worry when she saw her groceries delivered every day from a trig automobile. She knew that the cost of the tires and the gasoline and money for the upkeep of the motor and the chauffeur's salary and his uniform came from her pocket. Absentee marketing is one of the costliest habits of the moment and one that makes life easy for profiteers. Everywhere the demand is for the costliest food—not always for the best. Yet meat that costs the most is not the most nutritious and clothes that are most expensive are not by any means the most becoming.

Bills in almost every American household could be cut by careful shopping and by an abandonment of the delusion that the price of a cut of meat is a fair indication of its food value. No one ever died because of an inability to keep pace with every lightning change in styles.

Self-control is what the country needs. It needs, too, a revival of respect for dimes and nickels which passed during the war. By such means no one will altogether escape the profiteer. But a way is clear, nevertheless, to frustrate him often and to get by with less hardship, and to hurry the return of normal conditions.

WOMEN'S VOTES: A MYSTERY

LIFE is being made harder and harder for the generals and admirals of the two big political parties by the news that comes from successive conventions of women voters. Do the grizzled veterans of past campaigns moan and cover their eyes, and are they learning anew the habit of prayer? If they are not doing these things it is because they have not yet measured the full significance of feminine tendencies in the realm of politics.

It was generally supposed, for example, that the first national convention of women voters recently held at Chicago would be a vast pink tea. It wasn't. That convention was notable for a really gallant approach to living issues in economics and politics, for incisive debate and for what might be called the organized snub of regular party leaders.

Even more ominous is the news from New York, where the Democratic women have just closed what will be remembered as a most extraordinary convention. Dazzling tactics, a mastery of the parliamentary game, plots and counter-plots, log-rolling and a merciless use of the steam roller are reflected in the chronicle sent from Albany by awed correspondents. The convention was packed. It was packed by the independents, who upset their party leaders' plans and almost got a knife into the Tammany organization.

Miss Elizabeth Marbury—Miss Elizabeth herself—was the Tammany candidate for the office of delegate-at-large to the national convention. She just managed to escape with her political life.

Gradually party leaders are finding out that the feminine voter is to be classed among the imponderables of the New World. It is no wonder that an effort is being made temporarily to sidetrack the women's vote. An ordinary politician cannot understand it and he cannot tell in advance what it may do.

The question now is whether women with the franchise will follow the regularly ordained party leaders or listen to the voice of the leaders in their own new-

formed organization. It was assumed that the woman voter would continue, even in politics, to carry the slippers for the lord of creation and hearken to his counsel or his commands. Lately it has been apparent that such a surmise was not altogether justified. The women who have been leading feminine opinion talk like determined insurgents. They are a new cause for concern in both big parties.

So, though ratification in four more states will make equal suffrage general, it should surprise no one if action in these states is delayed by one method or another to keep a large element of the potential feminine vote out of the presidential election.

Oklahoma has already declared for suffrage. The governor of Washington has announced his readiness to call a special session for ratification if this action is necessary. The support of three more states would still be required. Connecticut, Vermont, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia and New Mexico have not yet acted on the question of ratification. Their Legislatures, except in West Virginia, are not in session. The governors might be persuaded to call special sessions—and they might be persuaded not to call special sessions. And there you are.

A PROPER SCHOLARSHIP

THERE is scant probability of any vacancies in the crew of the schoolship Annapolis when she is ready for her spring cruise to the West Indies. Nearly a hundred applications for this excellent course in seamanship have already been filed. In her United States navy days the Annapolis seldom carried a crew of more than 150.

The commendable interest in this training vessel, authorized as a nautical school by the commonwealth, testifies not only to an appreciation of America's new role on the sea, but also to the judgment displayed in assigning to this service a ship entirely suitable to its purpose.

The Saratoga was picturesque but antiquated. The principles of modern seacraft and naval subjects can, however, be practically taught on the Annapolis, which is a well-equipped gunboat, capable, in spite of her twenty-three years, of giving an excellent account of herself.

Her allocation here is partly the result of the wisdom of the Pennsylvania Legislature in appropriating \$100,000 for the maintenance of a state schoolship and partly a consequence of the short-sightedness of California in failing to provide a sufficient sum. The trig little Annapolis, which was towed all the way from the Mare Island Navy Yard, is distinctly our gain.

Oh, Blasco, Blasco! "In my country," said Senor Vicente Blasco Ibañez, hot-footing it to Bryn Mawr yesterday for a series of lectures, "women like to be dominated. If I lived in the United States I would start a society for the emancipation of men. Women rule here." Perhaps, perhaps! The women of Spain may like to be dominated, but it isn't on record that they are in the habit of paying jobs of money to be lectured to by noted foreigners. Are we to suppose that the distinguished author of the "Four Horsemen" would, by a revision of American social customs, wipe out an industry that alone makes life worth while for the rising generations of the old world?

We gather from a newspaper headline that a "century vote" is due within a fortnight, from a New York dispatch that 200 prominent men, governors and such, have written the Christian Herald that in their view the treaty should be ratified at once with or without reservations; and from other news sources the general opinion that the people of the country want the matter disposed of forthwith. Which causes the tame office poet to twang his lyre thusly:

The "dues" are falling fast.  
The "stars" begin to blink.  
The country calls to Congressmen,  
"Act as the people think!"

A Little Slip

The Railroad Brotherhoods, as a grant of "a particular, exclusive and special privilege," which violates the fundamental principles of the American government that portion of the railroad bill which gives to the owners the right to charge rates that will produce enough to meet the wage demands of organized labor. Eh? Oh, we beg your pardon. It should read "to produce a minimum net return of 5 per cent."

Costly Victory

France, baten in the Prussian war, paid her debts and grew prosperous. France, victorious in the late war, is withdrawing a million men from production for military purposes and will sweat blood for generations. It costs money to wear bays.

All the World's a Stage

The railroad bill and is expected soon to give the railroad men their cue. Let us hope that they will be good actors and refrain from tearing a passion to tatters.

"You can't believe the stuff the Red leaders are putting out," says an American radical returned from Russia. But the victim doesn't have to believe. All he has to do is swallow it. And, by a beautiful disposition, every man swallowing the Bolshevik dose is provided with the necessary bunk so that he may sleep in peace.

Much of the acrimony having been taken out of the debate and treaty ratification now being practically inevitable, the country may palliate delays with the thought that everything is for the best in this best of all possible worlds.

Speaking of mandates, we accepted one for Belgium during the war—the mandate of common humanity. It may be that one for Armenia, at least, would today have the same high authority.

Perhaps too much stress is placed on the importance of the Montagu in India, as a factor in the fate of the Turk in Europe. It may be that national jealousies should take first place.

It being generally admitted that Philadelphia "has the goods," the suggestion that they be advertised shows solid good sense.

The Allies are willing to recognize the Russian soviet government with reservations.

Primary prophecy: Pennsylvania will forget both Palmer and Edwards wot.

Mr. Wilson has somewhat of a fine Italian hand himself.

## LEFT-OVERS



## HOW DOES IT STRIKE YOU?

Economic Conditions in Russia Under Soviet Rule Closely Resemble Conditions Elsewhere

"RUSSIA Under Red Much as of Old," says a headline in a New York paper. It summarizes the observations of a Dutch newspaper correspondent who has just returned to Amsterdam after an extended observation of soviet Russia.

"One pound of salt meat," writes the correspondent, "costs 320 rubles and a pound of black bread 100 rubles."

Nothing was more pervasive about that! A pound of meat or of bread costs a hundred or more something almost anywhere in Europe.

The only difference is that in Russia it is rubles, and elsewhere it is marks, or kronen, or lire, or sous, or pennies.

At least the revolution has not upset the foundations of society.

When you trade paper for bread you have to trade a lot of paper for it.

Even in America, if Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip is to be accepted as authority, we are illustrating that rule.

The "dictatorship of the proletariat" has not been able to dictate enough, to disturb the everlasting relations of paper and bread.

AND the 100-ruble bread and 300-ruble meat sells.

"By the side of a big cash register stands a barmaid selling salted meat and sausage about her. The poor devils lying on the ground do not even notice it, for they know very well that in the new state there are rich men and poor men just as before."

There are rich and poor in Russia! Evidently the land of the soviets is not so black as it was painted.

AND there are other familiar and human things.

"Profiteering is general."

For example: "The communistic laborer cannot get fifty grammes of bread a day, but the farmers come into town all the same with their sacks of corn, selling their stuff at fancy prices."

The farmer turning an honest penny in spite of laws which say that he shall not.

This might be anywhere and not some Utopia whose communications might corrupt the manners of other lands of liberty.

"Eighty per cent of the Red army is not red at all, but neutral."

Even the revolution has not overcome the human propensity to neutrality.

Eighty per cent of any movement at all is not composed of hot gospellers, but of Laodiceans.

Just as the revolution has not been able to make paper circulate at a parity with bread nor overcome the innate profiteering habit of the farmer, so it has not been able to eradicate that extremely reassuring human trait, indifference.

"Je m'en fiche," says the Frenchman.

"Wat tell!" says the American.

"Nichevo!" says the Russian.

Or at least 80 per cent of all of them, no matter what the race.

Put in different language, it is the greatest common denominator of mass action or mass thinking.

The Russian goes right on saying "Nichevo" in spite of the fact that he is living in the midst of a new social order!

ABOUT 60 per cent of the officers in the army are trained military men from the upper classes, and they are czarist in inclinations.

The profiteer, the 80 per cent who say "Nichevo" and the upper class officer!

Here we encounter the factor in the enthusiasm for revolution or in the fear of revolution, prevents action, to wit, inertia. You don't overcome it by merely establishing a dictatorship of the proletariat.

Our own Declaration of Independence did not cause all men to be "born free and equal" by merely saying that they were. The inertia of nature and of organized society kept right on producing men who

## NOSTALGIA

TIBURON and Belvedere, dream-bound San Rafael, Tamalpais, Lagunitas, castled Alcatraz—Every name is music, music, Never come to pass; Every name is yearning, yearning, Sacred, like the mass.

Wind on San Francisco bay, breast-white gulls alight, Sun that floods the universe, bright as stars are bright, Sweeping down the drifts of fog with triumphant light; What romance of Araby, tale of carved gold, Subtle sandalwood or jade, by magic wrought of old, Can wake in me the melody that these dear names unfold?

When all my heartache days are spent, and I come to pass, This shall be my litany—chant no Latin mass— "Tamalpais, Belvedere, wave-lashed Alcatraz." VIVIAN GURNEY.

Any charge of arbitrary rate-making powers of railroad officials under the coming regime is discounted by the fact that recent legislation has made the Interstate Commerce Commission almost as powerful as the railroad administration now passing out. If the country hasn't got government ownership of railroads, it has at least got strong government regulation.

It is understood that when the Board of Registration Commissioners makes an attack on the home its sole objective is the home for voting purposes only.

Uncompromising and unwavering backers of the Big Bull Moose look upon the recent startling acquisition to the President's cabinet as a ouija board appointment.

All the country admits that Mr. Wilson's faculty for doing the unexpected is quite unimpaired.

Ole Hanson thrives on opposition.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Who will probably come to Washington as States?

2. Whose portrait is on a fifty-dollar Federal Reserve bill?

3. How long is the Grand Canal of China?

4. What was the middle name of Rutherford B. Hayes?

5. What is the origin of the word bourse?

6. Which state was most recently admitted to the American Union?

7. Who discovered the Pacific ocean?

8. In what country was President Deschanel of France born?

9. What celebrated American financier was known as "The Commodore"?

10. What is the meaning of the musical term adagio?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The name Flume is a corruption of the last word of the old Latin name of the town, which was "Favum Sancti Viti ad Flumen."

2. Servius means shoulder to shoulder, without gaps, close.

3. Previous to his election as President in 1884, Grover Cleveland was governor of New York state.

4. Praxiteles was a noted Athenian sculptor, born about the end of the fifth century B. C.

5. Former Premier Herbert Asquith has just been elected to the British Parliament.

6. Pabulum is food. The word is often used in a figurative sense, as in the phrase "mental pabulum."

7. The first woman in the United States to obtain the degree of M. D. was Elizabeth Blackwell, in 1849.

8. Ares was the god in Greek mythology who corresponded to the Roman god of war, Mars.

9. Thaumaturgy is miracle or wonder working.

10. Thaumaturgy is miracle or wonder working.